

## UNFUNDED MANDATES

- There are no unfunded mandates in the Republican bill.
- The provisions at issue in this debate were included in legislation reported out by the Ways and Means and Education Committees, at which time CBO issued a report that the increased work requirements did NOT constitute an unfunded mandate.
- Here's what CBO said:

*“The TANF program affords states broad flexibility to determine eligibility for benefits and to structure the programs offered as part of the state’s family assistance program. Changes to the program as embodied in H.R. 4090 could alter the way in which states administer the program and provide benefits. However, states would continue to be able to make changes, for example adjusting eligibility criteria or the structure of programs, to avoid or offset any additional costs. Because the TANF program affords states such broad flexibility, new requirements would not be considered intergovernmental mandates as defined by UMRA.”*

Note: UMRA= “Unfunded Mandates Reform Act”

- These exact same arguments – that States could not afford to meet the work requirements – were made during debate over the 1996 legislation. Those arguments proved completely wrong, as \$7.4 billion in TANF funds remain unspent by the States even after a recession (as of September 2001, according to the liberal Center on Budget and Policy Priorities).
- Keep in mind that under current law 14 States require NO work from recipients for the first 24 to 30 months of assistance. Once real work requirements are in effect as expected under the legislation in these States, and more of the caseload is expected to work across the country, caseloads will decline even further, freeing up additional resources for child care or other State program needs.